



# A Catalog of the Bishops of Excester, with the description of the antiquitie and first foundation of the Cathedrall Church of the same.

Collected by Iohn Vowell alias  
Hoker, Gentleman.

*Hoker John*

*Eze. 3. Act. 20.*

I haue made thee watch-man ouer the house of Israel, to giue them warning from me. Take heed therefore to your selues, and to the flocke whereof the holie Ghost hath made you ouerscers.



Imprinted at London by  
Henrie Denham.

1584.

Ames P. 950 N. 4



Post mortem vita  
eternam habemus.

4821

To the Right Honourable and Reuerend Father in God, John by the sufferance of God Bishop of Excester, and to the Right worshipfull and Reuerend the Deane and Chapter of the same; John Vowell alias Hoker, wisheth grace mercie and peace.



Bout a few yeares past, right Honorable, reuerend and worshipfull, I was requested to giue out the description of the citie of Excester, some one (then liuing) pretending and minding after the order of Ministers, to set forth a generall description of the whole realme of England, and also a Topographicall and a particular discourse of euerie prouince, citie, and towne, in the same. This request tending to so good an end, liked me so well, that albeit I were and am verie vnfit, and of small knowledge, to wade into such a matter: yet when I sawe no man would take it in hand, I was contented to yeeld therenvnto. And finding no such thing before doone, my paines were the greater, and I driven to make the more diligent search and inquirie, for such old and ancient presidents, records and writings, as might be found and had for my best furtherance herein. In which my trauels, it was my hap among other things, to haue the sight of a certayne table within your Cathedrall church, which cheefelie conteined a certeine Catalog of a few Bishops thereof. I did not so much reioise at the sight thereof, at the first, but when I had throughlie perused and considered the same, I was sorie, that no one man, in the course of manie yeares, had continued it. At length, considering with my selfe, that there is such a sympathetic and affinitie, betweene this citie and the church, both which are inclosed and inuironed within one wall, and be as it were one bodie, though in certeine priuiledges distinguished; and that in the search for the one, I might the better do the like in the other, I did resolute my selfe, to bestowe my trauels in both alike, and yet greatlie was I herein discouraged, for being an earnest tutor to some of your owne companye, for some helpe out of your auncient records, I had small furtherance; some being more suspicous than needed; some if I may speake it, vnder your patience, not vnlke Aesops dogge, who would neither eate haie himselfe, nor yet suffer the oxe to doo it, by meanes wherof, I was driven to picke out els where what I could, which I doo persuade my selfe to be so much the more imperfect. Well, what I haue doone for the citie, I haue presented it to the Maior and magistrates of the same; and what I haue doone concerning your church, I do here most humble offer vnto you, the effect wherof is, The antiquitie and first foundation of your cathedrall church, when and by whom the same was doone, and then the Catalog of all the Bishops that I can find, which haue beeene of this prouince, as well before as si- thence the sea was stablished in this church and citie. And for as much as the Bishops were alwaies accompted to be the fathers of Gods people, for the direction of them in all holines, vertue and religion, I will by way of a little introduction, set downe the beginning of christians religion, within this realme,

## The Epistle Dedicatore.

and of the first placing and appointing of Bishops ouer this prouince and countrie of Deuon and Cornewall. It is recorded in sundrie histories, that immedately vpon the death of Christ, the Gospell was preached in this land of England. Some write, that *Simon Zelotes*, one of the apostles was here and preached; some write that *S. Paule* was here, and did the like; some saie that *Joseph of Ari-mathia*, did come into this land, when king *Arviragus* reigned, & did both preach and baptize the king and his people; some saie that it was some one of the apostles, but they name him not; but whosoeuer was the preacher, true it is, that Christ was preached, and his Gospell receiued, euen with the first: notwithstanding, the seed was cast among the thornes and high waies, and brought forth no fruit, but as a candle vnder the bushell, and as fire raked vp in the im-bers, it seemed to be hidden and buried, vntill the time of king *Lucius* the sonne of king *Coyleo*, who about the yeare of the Lord 187, was by the goodnes of God called to the knowledge of the Gospell; and he foorthwith expelled all the Archiflamines and Flamines, and constituted in their places, Archbishops and Bishops, which were in number three of the one, and xxvij. of the other; and at this time the prouinces of Deuon and Cornewall were vnder the Archbishop of London, for of anie other particular Bishop, there is no mention made. And notwithstanding, the Gospell had his free passage for the time, yet clouds couered the sunne, and through persecutions, the godlie were put to silence, and the true religion seemed to be extinguished, for almost about four hundred yeares, vntill the time of king *Alpheus*, then king of West sex, or West Saxonie, who about the yeare of our Lord 636, was conuerted vnto christian religion, by the good and godlie man *Birinus*, and the sea for West sex was appointed to be at Dorchester, and then vnder the same were the prouinces of Deuon and Cornewall about twentie yeares, vntill the time of *Kinwulchus*, who builded the church of Winchester, about the yeare 654, and he remoued the sea from Dorchester vnto Winchester, and thenceforth was all Deuon and Cornewall vnder the Bishop of Winchester, for and about fiftie yeares, vntill the time of king *Isma*. In whose time about the yeare of our Lord 705, there was a synod or a prouinciall councell, holden vnder *Bishewaldus* Archbishop of Canturburie, in which it was ordeined, that the Bishoprike of Winchester, should be diuided into two Bishoprikes or diocesses: that is Winchester, and Shereborne, and then vnder the Bishop of Shereborne, and in his Diocese was Deuon and Cornewall, and so thenceforth did this constitution hold and continue about two hundred yeares, vntill the time of king *Edward the elder*, the sonne of king *Alphred*, who making a progresse through out his kingdome of Westsex, came to this citie of Excester, and found boch it, and the whole countrie cleane destituted of Bishop or preacher, and so had beeene for sundrie yeares, wherevpon by the aduise of *Plymunden* Archbishop of Canturburie, a synod or a prouinciall councell was kept in Westsex: and therein it was ordeined and concluded, that in euerie particular prouince or shiere, within Westsex, there should be a particular Bishop: and then one Bishop was appointed for Deuonshire, and an other for Cornewall. *Wesstanus* was consecrated Bishop of Deuon, and his sea was then at Tawton, now named Bishops Tawton, and from thence shortlie after remoued to Kitton, and after manie yeares, from thence to Excester. *Hestianus* was consecrated Bishop of Cornewall, and his sea was first at S. *Petrokes* in Bodmin, and after remoued vnto S. *Germanes*, and at length was vntied vnto Crediton, and in the end both were remoued vnto Excester. And for as much as I haue not yet found anie thing of the Bishops of Cornewall, worthit memorie, I will deale and

and set downe onelie the Catalog of the Bishops of Deuon and of Excester, and what I find doone by them or in their time worthie the obseruation. I know that for want of knowledge in me, there be manie imperfections herein. But among so manie wise godlie and learned men, as you are, I hope that some one good man or other, and hauing accessse vnto your evidences and records, will either reforme what they find amisse, or impart it vnto me, that I may so doo it, when time and opportunitie shall serue thereto. And thus much concerning the first receiving of the true and christian religion, and appointing of Bishops in this prouince of Deuon. And for as much as this pamphlet doone and written a fewe yeares past, came vpon some occasion to my hands, to be reuiued at this present time, being the end of the yeare past, and the beginning of the new now come, in which it hath beene an old vifage and custome among good freends, and especiallie of the yonger to their elders, and of the inferiour to their superiours, to offer some small present, ecb one to the other, congratulating thereby the good successse of the yeare past, and wishing the like to come, and considering also, that you which doo labour in the word and in doctrine, doo dailie beget vs through the Gospell in Christ Iesus, and are his ministers to our saluation, and therefore the more worthie of double honour; and for as much as I my selfe am (his name be praised) by these meanes made partaker of his heauenlie bles-  
sings, and dailie confirmed, doo thinke my selfe most bounden to be thankefull and gratafull vnto you all herein. Wherefore these my trauels, so much as con-  
cerne your church, I thought it good, by waie of a strene, to offer and present vnto you, praieng you, that though it be somewhat imperfect, yet such as it is you will accept and take in good part, not respecting the slendernes of the thing offered, but the good will and benuolence of the offerer. And herewith also I am to praie you to call to your remembrance, that as the old yeare is past, and the new is come; so that euerie one doo cast awaie the old man, which is cor-  
rupt, and put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousnes and holines, and that you be renewed in knowledge after the image of God, which created vs, and to cast awaie the workes of darkenes, and put on the armor of light, walking honestlie as in the daie time, not biting nor devouuring one the other, least we be consumed one with another: but walke in loue, and peace, long suffering, gentlenes, goodnes, faith, meekenes, and temperance, which are the fruits of the spirite, crucifieng the flesh and the affections and lusts therof, and thus having purged awaie the old leauen, and being freed from sinne, and made the seruants of God, and prepared to good works through Christ, you maie haue your fruires in holines, and in the end to enter into the  
ioie of our Lord, and life everlasting. And thus commanding

you vnto the eternall and cuerluing God in Christ Ie-

sus, I doo most durtifullie take my leaue. Exon

the last of the old yeare, and the be-

ginning of the new. 1583.

Yours in the Lord Iesus,

John Holme.

The

# The antiquitie, foundation, and building of the Cathedrall Church, of S. Pe- ters, in the Cittie of Excester.



After that false and superstitious religion, was crept and received into the Church of God: and the people growen verie devout therein, they began the erecting and building of religous houses, and monasteries, in every place: (which after the maner of the most part of Christendome) as it was done vnuersallie within this realme, so also there wanted not the like in this citie after the rate and portion thereof. For this humor being now entered, and the people nisled therein, so prone and forward was ech man to continue the thing begun and received: that the more valie, forward, and liberal he was therein, the better man he was reported, and taken to be. There were therefore in this citie from time to time, as oportunitie serued, divers religous houses, and monasteries, founded and erected: whereof appereth that they were within the site, circuite, and place, which is now called the close of S. Peters: and which, in tyme, increased and were united into one. The first was a house of women, calld Moniales or Nunnies, which is now the calenderhale and the Deanes house of the Cathedrall Church. The other was of monks, and supposed to be builded about the yere of the Lord 868. by King Etheldred, the third sonne of King Ethelmophus: and these two were by Bishop Leophricus addeed and united to the Cathedrall Church. The third was a house of Monks of the order of S. Benet, and founded by K. Athelstane, Anno 932. And this is that part of the Cathedrall Church, now called the Ladie chappell. For the said King, hauing druen out of this citie, the Brytaines (who then dwelled therein) and minding to make a full conquest of them, and of such as then inhabited in Devon or in Cornwalle followed and pursued them, whom in the end he conquered; and hauing exploited his wit, and gotten the victorie, returned to this citie, and here staing and sojourning for a tyme, did redisse the citie, as also yelding himselfe thankfull to God for his godly successe, builded the said monasterie for Monks, for thus is it so written of him, *Hanc urbem primus Rex Athelstani in potestatem Anglorum effugatis Brytonibus redactam, meritis munius, & in eis ex quadratis lepidibus cinxit: ac antiquitus vocatum Munitionem, nunc Exeter vocari solet: ac ibi sedans mansum quoddam aedilis ad fundandum monasterium pro monachis deo & sancto Petro famulibus.* And besides the great charges he was at, in the building, he gane also sufficient lands & reuenerewes for their living, wherof Mordbrong Threasurers heare, be yet remaining & are appertaining to the treasurer of the said Church. But after the tyme of K. Athelstane, the Danes with great hostilitie, & crueltie haing ouerrunne this land, this citie and Church was much infected and troubled, for with no lesse crueltie, did the Danes pursue the English men, and Saxons, than did the Saxons before pursue the Brytaines. And then the Monks not able to indure the same, fled and forsooke their house, seeking places of refuge, and better safetie: and so was this monasterie left destitute, and forsaken for sundrie yeares, vntill the tyme of K. Edgar, for he making a pro-  
gresse

## The building of the Cathedral Church

gresse into those west parts, to visit his father in lawe Ordogarus (whose daughter he had married) then Earle of Deuon, and founder of the abbeie of Tauestocke, came to this citie, Anno, 986. and he pitteng the distressed state of the said Church, caused the Monks to be sought out, and to be assembled together; whom he then restored to their house and lueliehods, and appoyn-  
ted Sydemannus (who afterwards was Bishop) to be their Abbat.

And thenceforth, they continued together (although in great troubles) vntill the time of R. Swanus the Dane, for he with a great troupe and armie of his Danes, came to this citie, anno, 1019. who besieged it, and at length, having taken the same, he spoiled, destroied, and burnt, both citie, and mona-  
sterie, but yet shorlie after it was againe restored, for R. Cahutus or Canu-  
tus, being aduertised of the great cruelties done by his father Swanus, did at  
the request of one of his dukes named Acheldredus, make restitution vnto A-  
chelredus then Abbat, both of lands, livings, and pruiledges, as appereth  
by his chapter dated, anno, 1019.

Afier this, neere about xxx. yeares, R. Edward the confessor came to the  
citie, and he by the advise and counsell of Leophricus, then Bishop of Crediton  
and sometimes Lord Chancellor of England, and of the priuie Councell,  
with the said R. King; partie for the better safetie of the Bishop, and his suc-  
cessors, and partie to prouide a more apt place for the Monks, did remoue  
the Bishops see, from Crediton to this citie, and sent the Monks to Westmo-  
naster; and did himselfe in his owne person, together with Quene Edeth  
his wife, place and install Bishop Leophricus in possession of his new Church  
and see. The Bishop then thus remoued from the old, and placed in the new,  
indoweth his new see and Church, with the lands, and lueliehods of his  
former Churche, and to make his sanctuarie to his mind, pulleth downe the  
two monasteries, where adiuring, the one of Hunnes, the other of Monks,  
and addeth them to his owne Church: and then having thus brought his de-  
uise to effect, maketh ordinances, lawes, and orders, for the god government  
of his Church and cleargie.

Afier Leophricus death, his successors following his example did euerie of  
them, for the most part, prouide the augmentation & increase of their church,  
some in lueliehods, some in liberties, and pruiledges, and some in buildings,  
and some in one thing or other.

William Warewest, the third Bishop after the conquest, being sometimes  
chapleine to the conqueror, and to William and Henrie his sonnes, obteined of  
the conqueror such grace and fauour, that he gaue to this Church, Plimton,  
Brampton, and S. Steuens in Excester, whiche his gift, his foresaied two  
S. nnes by their charters did also confirme: and then the said Bishop, hauing  
the ordering and distribution thereof, giveth Plimton to the regular Can-  
nons, for whom he had created a monasterie there, and whiche he himselfe short-  
lie after, leauing his Bishoprike became a Cannon; Brampton was reserued  
to the Cathedral Church, and afterwards was annexed to the Deancrie,  
but S. Steuens, with the fee to the same, he reserued to himselfe, and to his  
successors, whereby they are Barrons and Lords in the parliament.

Anno 1112—the said Bishop Warewest began to enlarge his Cathedral  
Church, whiche at that time was no bigger than that part whiche is now the  
Laie chappell, and laid the foundation, of that whiche is now the choyce or  
quier.

Anno 1235.or there about; William Brewer Bishop, established and made a  
Deane

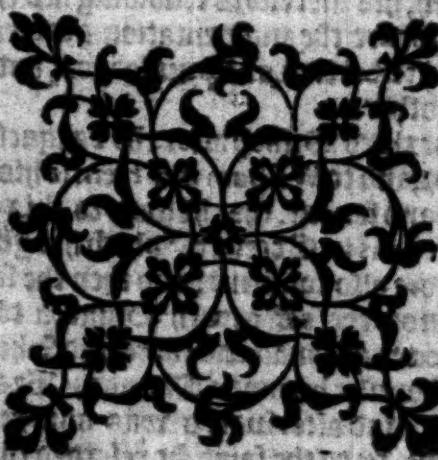
Deane's chapter of xxvij. prebendaries: for the Deane (whom he then appointed, and whose name was Serlo) and for his successors, he appropriated & gave Wimington, and Coliton Raxleigh, for the prebendaries he purchased lands, allotting to each of them, the like portion of four pound, by the year.

Anno 1284. Peter Quivill Bishop, finding the chancell of his Church to be builded and finished to his hands, beginneth and foundereth the lower part, or body of his church, from the quere westwards; he also appointed a chanter, and a subdeane in the Church, to the one he improprietated Panton, and Chudleigh, and to the other, the personage of Egloshale in Cornwall, he also improprietated the personage of St. Newlin in Cornwall, & of the Stoke-gabriel in Devon, to the Chancellor of the Church for reading of a Diminitie lecture in his Cathedral Church.

Anno 1340. John Grandisson Bishop, did increase the length of his Church, from the fente, westwards; he vaulted the rofe of the whole Church, and fullie ended and absolved the same; and albeit, from the time of R. Athelstan, the first founder, anno 932, untill the death of this Grandisson, which was anno 1369, there were 437. yeres distant, and in the meane time, this Church builded by sundrie and diverse men, yet so unforme the same is compact, as though it were builded at one instant.

Anno 1456. George Nevill then Bishop of this Church, but shortly after Archibishop of York, began to build the chapter house, which was ended, finished, and absolved, by his next successor, Bishop Edmond Lacie, but the cloister, and library, was builded by the Deane and chapter.

Thus much concerning the first foundation and building of this Church, and the full ending of the same, and now to the Catalog of the Bishops, and of so manie as I can find, who have beene particular Bishops in this province of Devon, fithen the time of Edward the eldet, the sonne of St. Alphred.



# A Catalog of the Bishops of Excester.

WERSTANUS, at a prouinciall synod, holden in west ser, anno. 905. was consecrated Bishop of Deuon, and had his sea at Bishops Lawton: and in the yeare following 906. he died and was buried in his owne church.

2  
Vitta, after the death of Werstanus, was elected and consecrated Bishop, and had his sea at Lawton, and taking his torneie towards Crediton, to see and visit the king (or as some late, Vffa the kings lieutenant) was by the said Vffas men slaine, and then vpon his death the sea was remoued to Crediton.

3  
EADULPHUS, brother to Alpheus duke of Deuon, and Cornwall, and founder of Launceston, was consecrated Bishop of Deuon, but installed at Crediton, where he had his sea, and continued Bishop rry. yeares, and then dieng about the yeare 932. he was buried in his owne church.

4  
EHELGARUS, anno. 932. succeeded Eadulphus, and in his time king Athelstane subdued the Cornish people, reedified this citie, and compassed the same with a stone wall: he founded the monastrie of S. Peters, for monkes of S. Benets order. This Ethelgarus after he had beene Bishop ten yeares died, and was buried in his owne church.

5  
ALGARUS, anno. 942. after Ethelgarus was constituted and installed Bishop at Crediton, and having beene Bishop about ten yeares, died and was buried in his owne church.

6  
ALFWOLDUS, as Mathew of Westminster wryteth, was next Bishop after Algarus, and consecrated by the advise of Dunstane, anno 952. In this time Odogarus Earle of Deuon, and father in lawe to king Edger, builded the Abbie of Lanestoke, and king Edgar calleth home all the Monkes of S. Peters which were dispersed, and without anie Abbat, and made Sydemannus Abbot, who was afterwards Bishop. This Alfwoldus after sixteene yeares that he was consecrated, died and was buried in his owne church.

7  
ALWOLFUS, as Dicetus affirmeth, was consecrated Bishop, anno 969. and after nine yeares died, and was buried in his owne church.

# A Catalog of the

8 **S**ydemannus, of an Abbat was made a Bishop, anno. 978. in this mans time the Danes ouerrannte and spoiled the whole contries of Deuon and Cornewall, burned the towne of Bodmen, and the cathedral church of S. Petrokes, with the Bishops house. Where, upon the Bishops sea was remoued from thence to S. Germans, where the same continued vntill the remouing and vnsiting thereof unto Crediton. Sydemannus in the twelfe yeare after his consecration died, and was buried at Crediton in his owne church. 990.

9 **A**lphredus, whom Dicetus calleth Alfricus Abbat of Malmesburie, was consecrated Bishop, and installed at Crediton, he was taken for a learned man, because he wrote two booke, the one intituled *De rebus cœnobij sui*, and the other *De rerum naturis*. In this Bishops time, king Etheldred endowed the Bishoprike of S. Germans, with lands, liberties and priuiledges. The Danes made a fresh invasion, in and vpon all Deuon and Cornewall, burned and spoiled the Abbie of Ordolphus at Tauestoke: they besieged Excester, and being remoued from thence, were fought withall at Pinneho, about thre miles from the citie, and ouerthownde. Alphredus, after he had bee Bishop about nine yeares, died anno. 999. and was buried in his owne church.

10 **A**lwolfus, as Dicetus writteh, was the next Bishop. In his time Sweno king of Denmarke, by intisement of one Hew, then Earle of Deuon, came with a great hoste and besieged the citie of Excester, tooke it and burned it, and with great crueltie vsed the people, vntill in the end Almarus then Earle of Deuon, and the gentlemen did yeld and submit themselues, and so obteined peace. This Alwolfus about the fiftteenth yeare of his Bishoprike, anno. 1014. died, and was buried in his owne church.

11 **A**lnoldus, by the report of the Archdeacon of London, succeeded Alwolfus, and was installed at Crediton. In this mans time king Canutus gaue to Athelwode Abbat of S. Peters of this citie, great gifts and sundrie priuiledges, in recompense of his fathers great iniuries. Arnoldus in the fifteene yeare of his Bishoprike 1030. died, and was buried in his owne church.

12 **L**euigus or Leuingus, Abbat of Tauestoke, and nephew to Brythewaldus Bishop of Cornewall, was chosen the next Bishop, and according to the orders then vsed, consecrated and instal led. He was in great fauour and credit with king Canutus, vpon whom

## Bishops of Excester.

whome he attended in pilgrimage unto Rome. And after his uncle the Bishop of S. Germans being dead, obtained of the king that the Bishops sea was remoued from S. Germanes unto Crediton, and both were thereby reduced and united into one Bishoprike, and so hath ever sinthence continued ; he was after the death of Brythegus Bishop of Worcester, remoued to that church, and there died and was buried as some suppose : but some affirme, that in the time of Hardicamitus the king, at the accusation of Alfredus then Archbisshop of Yorke, for that he shold be consenting to the death of Alfredus the sonne of Etheldred, that he shold be deposed of his Bishoprike there, and so did returne unto Tawestoke, where he died : but Dicetus affirmeth that he purged himselfe of this crime, and by that meanes was restored both to the fauour of the king and to his Bishoprike againe, and died Bishop of Worcester. It is recorded that he was Bishop of Crediton fiftene yeares.

I 3  
**L**eofricus, a man descended of the blood and line of Brutus, but brought vp in the land of Lothoringia or Loreine, was so well commended for his nobilitie, wisdome and learning, that king Edward the confessor had him in great fauour, and made him first one of his priuie Councell ; and then Lord Chamberlaine of all England : and lastlie the Bishoprike of this prouince being void, he was made, consecrated, and installed, Bishop of the same. By him and by his meanes, the Bishops sea was remoued from Crediton, to this citie of Excester, for at his request, king Edward togither with Queen Edith his wife, came to Excester, and remouing the monks from hence to Westminster, did also remoue the Bishops sea from Crediton to his citie, and did put the Bishop in the possession : for he conducting the Bishop on the right hand, and the Queen on the left hand, brought him to the high altar of his new church, and there placed him in a seat appointed for him. He suppressed sundrie houses or celts of religion within his sanctuarie, and appropria- ted and united them to his owne church, as also by the god liberalite of the king, obtained great reuuenues, possessions, priuiledges, and liberties, to be givien unto the church. In this mans time, William Duke of Normandie, made a conquest of this whole realme, as also in the yeare 1068. besieged this citie of Excester, which after by composition he restored to his former estate againe. Also in his time Richard de Brion, a noble man of Normandie, the sonne of Baldwin of Brion, and of Alred the neece to the conqueror, was made Baron of Dkehampton, warden of the castell of Excester, and Wicount of

# A Catalog of the

Devon. This Leofricus after that he had well and worthilie ruled his church and Diocesse, by the space of xxxij. yeares, he ended his daies in peace, and died anno 1073, and was buried in the cemitorie or churchyard of his owne church, vnder a simple and a broken Marble stome, which place by the sithens enlarging of his church, is now within the south tower of the same, where of late, anno 1568. a new monument was erected in the memorie of so god, worthie, and noble a personage, by the industrie of the writer hereof, but at the charges of the Deane and chapter.

14

**O** Sbertus or Osbernus, a Normaine borne, and brother to an Earle named William, was preferred to this Bishoprike, and in the yeare 1074. was consecratis and installed to the same. Polydorus writeth, that one Galfrid who soyned with Odo Earle of Kent and Bishop of Boion, against William Rufus, should be Bishop of Exon: but it was not so, could not so be. In this mans time William the conqueror, and William Rufus his sonne died. This Osbertus or Osbernus, after he had beene Bishop thirtie yeares, was blind, and died, and lieth buried in his owne church.

15

**W**illiam VVarewest, a Normaine borne, and chaplain to the conqueror and his two sonnes, William and Henrie, was a verie graue and a wisedeman, and for the same was preferred by Henrie the king to this Bishoprike, anno 1107. and was consecratis by Anselmus Archbishop of Canturburie, in the moneth of August, the same yeare. He first began to enlarge his church, which at that time was no bigger than that which is now called the Ladie chappell. He souned and builde d the monasterie of Plimpton, and placed therein regular Canons: in his latter daies he wared and became blind; and yet notwithstanding for his wisedome the king sent him in embassage vnto Pope Paschalis the second, wherein he so wisedlie dealed, and so discreetlie behaued himselfe in his message, that he made a reconciliation betwene the Pope and the King, and returned with g reat p raise and commendation. Not long after his returne, and having small ioie of the world, he gaue ouer his Bishoprike, and became one of the religious canons in his owne house of Plimpton, where he died and was buried, he was Bishop about twentie yeares.

16

**R**obert Chichester, Deane of Sarisburie, was consecratis Bishop vnder Anselmus Archbishop of Canturburie, anno. 1128. and the xvij. yeare of king Henrie the first, he was a Gentleman

## Bishops of Exeter.

man borne, and therefore esteemed for his zeale in religion, wherein he was verie devout according to those daies, and thinking his labours to be best emploied that waie, did eschewes go in pilgrimage, sometime to Rome, sometime to one place, sometime to an other; and ever he would bring with him some one relique or other. He was a liberall contributor to the buildings of his church. In his time was founded and builded the Monasterie of S. Stephens in Launceston, and furthered by Reynold Earle of Cornewall, but unto it this Bishop was an aduersarie; not for misliking the worke, but for feare of an intrusion vpon his liberties. Likewise at this time was builded the Priorie of S. Nicholas in Exeter, by the Abbat of Battell, unto which Abbie this Priorie was a cell. In this mans time also, king Henrie made William Rideuerle a Normaine, and his kinsemnan Earle of Devon; and therewith the Lordship of Chisfordtune, and the honor of Plimpton, together with the third pennie of his renenues in Devon, which in the whole was then xxx. marks, whereof this Earle had ten. Also in this mans time, king Henrie died, and king Stephen entered, and tooke vpon him the crowne, whereof ensued great warres. This Bishop after that he had occupied the place xxi. yeares, died and was buried in his owne church. But the monks of Westminster woxith that he should be Bishop xxvij. yeares, and died in the yeare 1155. but he never sawe the records of this church which are to the contrarie.

**R**obert Warewest, neybor to William the Bishop of this church, Deane of Sarisburie, was consecrated Bishop by Theobaldus Archbisshop of Canturburie, anno 1150. he nothing degenerate from the steps of his predecessors, but was altogether of the same bent and disposition. In his time king Stephen died, and Henrie the second was crowned king. This Robert after that he had occupied this see nine yeares or there about, died and was buried at Plimpton by his uncle.

**B**artholomeus Iscanus, otherwise Bartholomew of Exeter was consecrated Bishop of Exeter vnder Theoldbald Archbisshop of Canturburie, anno. 1159. he was called Iscanus of Isca, which is one of the ancientest names of this citie. He was a meane citizens sonne, but being verie apt vnto learning, his parents and frends kept him to schole, and he so well profited therein, that he came and proued to be a verie well learned man, and being Bishop he wrote sundrie bookes, as of Predestination, Freewill, Penance, D.j.

17

18

A Catalog of the

Penitence, and others: of all men he could not broke nor fauor Thomas Becket, Archbisshop of Canturburie, for his contempt and disobedience against the king, for the whiche he sharpelie imprewed, rebuked, and inueighed against him openlie, in the parliament house holden at Northampton; and with such effectuall reasons and pitthe arguments, he did so temper the same, that the whole parliament reuled unto his iudgement and opinion herein, against Thomas Becket. And after his death, such was the grauitie, modestie, and wise dome of the man, that he was speciallie chosen to be Embassado: for the king unto Pope Alexander the third, and so wiselie and with such discretion usid the same, that notwithstanding his cause and message had manie aduersaries, yet he reconciled the Pope, and the king, obteined the god will and fauour of the Pope, and brought his message to god effect. This Bishop was in great familiarite and acquaintance with Baldwin of Excester his countrman, now Archbisshop of Canturburie, who was a pore mans sonne in this citie; but for his learning advanced to this estate. In this Bishops time, about the yeare of our Lord 1168. William Fytzralph a citizen of this citie, founded a cell for monks within this citie, and dedicated the same to S. Alexius, which not long after was united to S. Iohns within the East gate of the same citie. In his time also Reynold of Courtney, a nobleman of Normandie, the sonne of Elorus the sonne of Lewes, named Lewes le grosse, king of Fraunce, came into this land, and married Hawise, daughter and heire to Maud the daughter and heire to Adelis, sister and heire to Richard de Briono the first, Vicecount of Devon, and in hit right was Vicecount of Devon. This Bartholomew after he had beene Bishop about xiiij. yeares, anno. 1184. died, but where he died and where he was buried, it dooth not appeare. In this Bishops time about the yeare 1170. one Iohannes Coriniensis a Cornish man borne, was a famous learned divine, he was a Student at Rome and other places in Italie, and by that meanes grue into great acquaintance with Pope Alexander the third, he wrote divers booke, and namele one *De incarnatione Christi*, against Peter Lombard, who affirmed, *Quod Christus secundum quod homo est, aliquid non est*; and this he dedicated to Pope Alexander.

19. John, the Chaunter of the cathedrall church of this citie, was consecrated and installed Bishop of this church, anno. 1184. he was well reported for his liberalite, in continuing the buildings of this church, where in he was nothing inferiour to his predecessors. In his time

cime king Henrie Fytzempire died, and he himselfe having bee  
Bishop about sre yeares, died anno. 1191.

**H**Enrie Marshall, Archdeacon of Stafford, the brother to

Walter the Earle Marshall of England, was consecrated Bishop by Hubert, Archbishop of Canturburie, anno. 1191. he finished the building of his church, according to the plat and foundation which his predecessors had laied, and that done, he purchased the patronage and Lordship of Woodburie of one Albemarlie, which he gaue and impoipated unto the vicars corall of his church. In this mans time anno. 1201. one Simon Thurnaius, a Cornish man borne, brought vp in learning, did by diligence and studie so prosper therein, that he became excellent in all the liberall sciences, and in his daies none thought to be like him: he left Orenford, where he had bee a student, and went to Paris, and there became a priest, and studied diuinite, and therein became so excellent and of so deepe a iudgement, that he was made chefe of the Sorbonistes; at length he became so prouid of his learning, and glorified so much therein, that he would be singular, and thought himselfe to be another Aristotle, and so much he was therein blinded, and wared so farre in loue with Aristotle, that he preferred him before Moses and Christ. And behold Gods iust iudgement, for suddenlie his memorie failed him, and he wared so forgetfull, that he could neither call to remembrance anie thing that he had done, neither could he discerne, read or know a letter of the booke. This Henrie, after that he had spent and liued twelue yeares in his Bishoprike, he died, and lieth buried in the North side of the Chauncell of his church, in a verie faire tombe of Marble, anno. 1206.

**S**imon de Apulia, anno. 1206. was installed Bishop of this see, of him there remaineth no memorie at all. In his time were famous Ioseph Iscanius, and Alexander Neckam; the one was verit well learned in the Latine and Greeke tong, and in the liberall sciences; the other was Prior of S. Nicholas, and was an universall man, being a profound philosopher, an eloquent orator, a pleasant Poet, and a deepe diuine. In this Bishops time, the doctrine of elevation, adoration, reservation, and praieng for the dead, being established by Pope Honorius the third, the parish churches within this citie were limited, anno. 1222. In this mans time, anno. 1213. one Iohannes Devonius, so surnamed because he was borne in Devon, being well bent to god studies, was much commended for his learn-

20

21

ning and modestie . He was familiar and of great acquaintance with Baldwin Bishop of Canturburie , and being made Abbat of Forde , was in such fauour with king John , that he chose him to be his confessor and chapline , he was a writer , and compiled divers bookes which were then accounted of . Being dead he was buried in his Abbie , the people much lamenting the want of so goda man . This Bishop having spent xvij. yeates , died anno . 1224. and was buried in his owne church .

22

**W**illiam Brewer , verie shortlie after the death of the for-  
said Simon , was elected Bishop , and consecrated by Ste-  
phan Langton , Archbisshop of Canturburie , anno . 1224. he was  
borne and descended of a noble house and parentage , being brother  
to Sir William Brewer knight , the husband of the eldest daughter  
and one of the heires to William de Verona , Earle of Deuon ; and  
who also was founder of the Abbeys of Lox and of Hartland , and of  
other Monasteries . This Bishop so wilfullie and so disscreathie beha-  
ued himselfe , that he was had in great reputation among all men ,  
and in speciall fauour with the king : for king Henrie , having gauen  
his sister Ladie Isabell , to wife vnto Frederike the emperour , did  
commend and betake hir to this Bishop , to be conueighed and con-  
ducted to the emperor . And such was the fame and good report spred  
of him , that as he passed through the countries , they were from place  
to place received with great honour , and being come to the citie of  
Coleine , the Archbisshop there did not onelie verie honourable re-  
ceiue and entertaine them , but also accompanied them vnto the ci-  
tie of Wormes , where the mariage was solemnized . When this Bi-  
shop had seene the mariage , & althynge performed , he tooke his leaue  
and was dismissed with great presents , and honourable accompa-  
nied homewards by the Archbisshop and others . At his returne he  
was toisfullie received of all the noblemen about the king , and most  
thankfullie by the king himselfe , and whem the king vld as his spe-  
ciall and most trusshie councellor in all his weightie causes . This Bi-  
shop being come home to his owne house , and minding as his prede-  
cessors had done , to leaue some god memorie behid him , he made  
a Deane , and constituted xxiij. prebendaries within his church , to  
the one he improprietated Brampton , & Coliton Rawley : for the others  
he purchased so much land , as out whereof he assignd to euerie pre-  
bendarie iij. pound by the yeare , & of these he ordeneid his chapter .  
Also in his mans time , anno 1240. Gilbert Long , and Robert his  
brother , citizens of this citie , builded and founded the hospitall of S.

Iohns ,

Johns, within the East gate of this citie, for the sustenance of certeine poore folks, called afterwards the poore children of S. Johns, & gave all their lands, & tenements to the same, which was sufficient. The yeare following the cell of S. Alexis was remoued and adioyned to S. Johns, and then the founders being dead, the charge and government of that house was by those founders commended to the Maiores of this citie, and they thenselvorth were founders & patrones thereof. Anno 1244. there grew a contention, concerning the poore lazer, sicke people of the Magdalen without the south gate of this citie, whose maner and usage was then, with a clapdish vpon euerie market daie, to resort and come to the markets, and there to beg euerie mans devotion: but by reason of their sicknesse, which was lothsome and abhorred, the peoples devotion waned shart and scant against them, as also euerie man murmured against their going and beggynge at large, wherevpon the matter being brought into question, betwene the Bishop and this citie, it was concluded, that a permutation should be made, and that therefore, the Bishops should be patrones, and haue the government of S. Johns, and the Maiores and his successors to be gardians and founders of the hospital of the Magdalen, with a prouiso that the proctor of the Magdalen, should on one daie in euerie moneth, come with his bor to S. Peters Church, at the time of setmice; and there receive and gather the devotion of the canons, which is vsed at these presents. This poore house remaineth still, but the other for want of god frends, was suppressed and dissolved. This Bishop after that he had continued in his Church, about xii, yeares he died, anno 1244. and lieth buried in the middle of his owne Church, vnder a plaine Marble ston.

**R**ichard Blondie, 1245. was consecrated and installed: 23  
 Bishop Bonifacius, then being Archbishop of Canturburie. This Richard was a man of a milde spirit, but verie stout against such as in his time, did offer any iniurie to the church, and in his old yeares being but a weake man, he was much carried and ruled by such as were his officers, and about him; who taking the oportunitie of the time, vsed all the meanes they might, to enrich themselves, his cheefest officers were one Lockefewell his chancellor, Sutton his register, Fitzherbert his officiall, and Ernestow the keeper of his seale. These with other of the chiefe seruants of the houſhold, compacted amongst themselves, that whilſt the Bishop was yet living, who then lay sicke and verie weake in his bed, to make and conuaine

unto themselves, conueiances of such livelihoods, as then late in the Bishops disposition; and accordinglie made out aduouisons and other such conueiances, as to them seemed best, all which were forthwith sealed and delivered, according to the orders among them concluded, but these their subtille dealings, were not so closelie conueied, but that the next Bishop following, boulted and found the same out, and did not onelie reverse all their doings, but also did excommunicate them, and who were not absolved bntill they had done their penance for the same. Which was done at S. Peters Church, openlie vpon Palme sundae, being the xix, of March, 1267. This Bishop Richard in the twelfe yeare of his Bishoprike died, and was buried in his owne Church.

24

**W**alter Bronescome, Archdeacon of Surreie, was consecrated Bishop of Canturburie, vpon passion sundae, anno 1286 vnder Bonifacius, then Archbisshop, he was borne in this citie of Exon, and was the sonne of poore parents, but he being of a verie towardnesse and god disposition, and verie apt to learning, they partlie of themselves, and partlie by helpe of their friends, did put him to schole, and kept him to his booke; wherein he proued and prospered so well, that he was verie well learned. At the time of his election, he was no preest, and therefore not capeable of anie such dignitie, but immediatlie he tooke that order vpon him, and forthwith was consecrated Bishop, all which being done within fiftene daies, it was counted as for a miracle, nameleie, that he should be elected Bishop, then made preest, and at last to be consecrated within that space. For so manie dignitie as they termed it, to be cast vpon one man in so short a time, had not beene lightlie seene. He founded the colledge of Glascin, in Perin in Cornewall, and endowed the same with faire possessions and reuenewes. He purchased the the Barton of Kokesdone, and Clift; and gaue it to the hospitall of S. Iohns, within the Eastgate of the citie of Excester. He instituted in his owne Church, the feast called Gabrils feast; and gaue a peice of land for the maintenance thereof, he also did by a policie, purchase the Lordship and house of Clift Hatchisfield, and by a deuise did inlarge the Barton thereof, by gaining of Cornish wood, from his Deane and chapter: and builded then a verie faire and a sumptuous house, and called it Bishops Clift, which he left to his successors. Likewise he got the patronage of Clift Fomeson, now called Sowton, and annexed the same to his new Lordship, which as it was said was in this order. He had a frier to be his chapline and confessour,

which

which died in his said house of Clift, and should haue beeene bursed at the parish church of Faringdon, because the said house was and is in that parish: but because the parish church was somewhat farre of, the waiers soule, and the weather rainie, or for some other causes: the Bishop willed and commanded the corps to be carried to the parish church of Howton, then called Clift Fomeson, which is verie neare, and bordereth upon the Bishops Lordship: the two parishes there being diuided by a little lake called Clift. At this time one Fomeson a Gentleman, was Lord and patron of Clift Fomeson, and he being aduertised of such a buriall towards in his parish, and a leech wate to be made ouer his land, without his leauue or consent required therein; calleth his tenants togither, and goeth to the bridge ouer the lake, betweene the Bishops land and his, and there maeteth the Bishops men, bringing the said corps, and forbiddeth them to come ouer the water. But the Bishops men nothing regarding the same, doo presse forthwards to come ouer the water: and the others doo withstand and fall at strife about the matter, so long, that in the end my Lords Frier is fallen into the water. The Bishop taketh this matter in such grēfe, that a holie Frier, a religious man, and his owne chaplaine and confessor, should so vnreuerentlie be cast into the water, that he falleth out with the Gentleman, and vpon what occasion I know not, he sueth him in the lawe, and so vexeth and tormenteth him, that in the end he was faine to yeld himselfe to the Bishops devotion, and saeketh all waies he could to currie the Bishops god will, which he could not obteine, vntill for his redemption, he had giuen and surrendred vp his patronage of Howton, with a peece of land, all which the said Bishop annexeth to his new Lordship. Thus by policie he purchased the manor of Bishops Clift, by a devise gaineth Cornish wood, and by power vresteth the patronage of Howton. This Bishop after he had occupied this sea about xiiij. yeares, died and was buried in his owne church, in a sumptuous tombe of Alabaster.

PETER QUIUILL, anno. 1281. was consecrated Bishop of this church, vnder John Archbisshop of Canturburie. He first instituted a Chaunter and a Subdeane in his church. To the one he impropria-  
ted Painton and Chidleigh, & to the other the rectorie of Eglosheasle in Cornewall. he was a liberall and a speciall benefactor to the hos-  
pital of S. Johns in Exester, as well in gods as in liuelihoods; he first began to enlarge and increase his church from the chancell downewards, and laid the foundation thereof. In his time anno.

25

1285. Walter Lichelade the first Chaunter, was slaine in a morning as he came from the morning service, then called the Mattines, which was then wont to be said shorthe after midnight. Upon which occasion the king came unto this citie, and kept his christmas in the same, and therevpon a composition was made betwene the Bishop and the citie, so; inclosing of the churchyard, and building of certeine gates there, as appeareth by the said composition, bearing date in *Festo annunciationis beatae Mariae* 1286. The king at the suite of the Earle of Hereford, who at his being here, was lodged in the house of the Cratc Friers, which then was neare the house of S. Nicholas, obteined of the Bishop, that they shold be remoued from thence to a more wholesome place, which was to the place without Southgate: whereof after the kings departure grew some controuersie, because the Bishop refused to performe his promise made to the king. This man also impropriated the parish of S. Newleine, and the parish of Stoke Gabrell, and united the same to the office of the Chauncelloz of the Cashedall church, and vnder condition that the said chauncelloz shold continuallie read a lecture within the said citie, of discipline, or of the decretalls: and if he shold faille to do this, that then it might and shold be lawfull to the Bishop to resigne the said parsonages impropriated, and to besilve it at his pleasure, as appeareth by the said grant, vnder the seales of the said Bishop, Deane and Chapter, dated the twelfe of the Calends of Mat. 1283. This Bishop not long after, and in the eleuenthe yeare of his Bishoprike, died being choaked in drinking of a sicrop, anno. 1292. and was buried in his owne church. The Franciscans or Cratc Friers of this citie, imputed his death to his hard dealing with them: so; whereas he had promised the king to prouide a conuenient place for them to buld their house in, and had willed their warden, named Deoditus, to seeke out and make inquierie for the same: yet notwithstanding, when he had so dwrie, because the same was in his see, he did swarue from his said promise, and did vterlie denie to performe the same, by the persuasion of one Peter Kenefeld, a Dominican or a blacke Frier, and conseilz vnto the said Bishop: so; he entailing the god successe of the Franciscans, perlitadeth with the Bishop, that in no wise he shold permit them to entoile the place which they had gotten, nor to buld therein, because it was within his see; so; saith he, as vnder colour of simplicitie, they creepe in to the hearts of the people, and hinder vs poore preachers from our gaines and livings: so be ye sure, that if the canons put sole within your liberties, they will

In time so incroch vpon the same, as that they will be cleane exempted from out of your libertie and iurisdiction. The Bishop being stoune perswaded and contented contrarie to his promise to yeld thereto, denieth the Franciscans; and vitterlie forbiddeth them to build or to do anie thing within his see or libertie. About two yeares after, the Bishop kept a great feast, vpon the sandale next before Saint Francis day, and among others was present with him one Walter Winborne, one of the kings chefe iustices of the bench, and who was present when the Bishop at the request of the king, made promise to further and to helpe the Franciscans, and who in their behalfe, did now put the Bishop in mind thereof, and requested him to haue consideration both of his owne promise, and of their distresse. The Bishop mistaking these speches, wated somewhat warme and offendred: and in open termes, did not onelie denie to yeld herevnto, but wished himselfe to be choaked, wherfore he did consent to yeld vnto it. It so tunced that the same wike, and vpon the daye of S. Francis Eue, the Bishop tolke a certeine sirrop to drinke, and in so hastie swallowing thereso, his breath was stopped, and he shortly died. The Franciscans heiring thereof, made no little a do about this matter, but blased it abroad, that S. Francis wrought this miracle vpon the Bishop, because he was so hard against them.

**T**homas Bitton, the yeare following was elected Bishop, and the see of Canturburie was vold, he was consecrated by John Roman Archbisshop of Yorke, he left no memoriall of anie great things done by him, saing that he continued in the building of his churche, as also was a fauourer of such learned men as were in his Dioces: in his time, namelie, Robert Plimton a regular Canon of Plimpton, and a professour of divinitie, and who wrote two booke, Walter of Eron a Franciscane, Frier of Catocus in Cornewall, who at the request of one Baldwin of Exeter, wrote the historie of Guie of Warwike, William of Exeter, Doctor of divinitie, and warden of the Franciscan Friers in this citie, Godfrey, surnamed Cornewall, a subtil scholeman, and a reader of divinitie sometimes in Paris. This Bishop after xiiij. yeares that he had occupied this see died, anno. 1306. and was buried in his owne churche.

**W**alter Stapledon, anno. 1507. being elected Bishop of this citie, was consecrated by Robert Winchelsey, Archbisshop of Canturburie, he descended of a most noble parentage, which joined with his learning, wisdome, & politike helpe, did get him great

great credit & fauour with the King, who had him not only one of his  
princie counsell, but also made him Lord Treasurer of England.  
At his inthronization or installing, he kept a solemne obseruacion.  
For being come first to the citie, immediatlie after his consecratio-  
on, as soone as he came to the Castlegate, he alighted from his horse,  
and went in on foote, all the streate being covered and laied with  
blacke cloth; he was led on both sides, with two men of worship, and  
Sir Hew Courtnie Knight, who claimed to be steward of his feast,  
went next before him. The feast it selfe was verie sumptuous, and  
liberall, a controuersie was betwene him and the said Sir Hew  
Courtnie, concerning his challenge, to be his steward, but it was  
compounded and ended. This Bishop as he grew and increased  
in wealth, so he was carefull in the well disposing of part thereof; for  
the increase of learning he builded & erected two houses in Drford,  
the one named Stabledons inne, but sithens Excesser colledge, the  
other Harthall, he was also a speciall benefactor unto the hospitall of  
S. Iohns in Excesser; unto the which, for the relēving of certeine  
poore children therein, he impropriated the rectorie or personage  
of Crnescome. In the controuersie betwene his maister King  
Edward the second, and Charles the French king, he was sent  
Emassador, to the French king and soined in commission  
with the Queene, for the treatie of a peace and reconciliation: which  
though it were obtained, yet he ioyning with the Spencers, who fa-  
voured not the Queene, he returned into England; leauing the  
Queene behind him. And whereas they practised what they could, to  
put enmitie betwene the King and hir; and to set hir besides the  
cushion, they themselues fell into the same snares, whiche they had lai-  
ed for others. For not long after the Queene, by the helpe of the  
Earle of Henavilde, and of S. Iohn his brother, came into Eng-  
land with a great armie, wherof the King and the Spencers, being  
afraid, departed from London to Bristowe, leauing this Bishop at  
London, and made him custos of the same, who requiring the keies  
of the gates of the citie, of the Mayo: the commoners tooke him and  
beheaded him, as also his brother Sir Richard Stapledon, in cheape-  
side, and carried his bodie to his house without templebarre, and  
there buried it in a sand-hill; namelie, the v. of October, anno 1329.  
But the Queene forgetting all discourses, and reverencing his  
calling, commanded his corps to some more honourable buriall,  
wherupon the same was taken vp, and brought to this citie, and  
with great solemnite, was buried in his owne church, vpon the 28.

of March; where his epitaph by the writer thereof is set. Thus after that he had beeue Bishop about xx, yeares, he ended his daies.

**J**ames Barkelie, vpon the xxvi. of March, anno. 1327. before the buriall of his predecessor in his owne Church, was consecrated Bishop of this citie, he descended of the noble house of the Lorde Barkelie, and albeit he were reputed to be a verie godlie and a wise man, yet he had no time to yeld the triall thereof. For he died in the fourth moneth after his consecration, vpon the xxij. of Iulie, anno, 1327. and was buried in his owne church as some saie, but some thinke he never came hither at all.

28

**J**ohn Grandesson, being in Italie, with Pope John, the xxij. after the death of Iames Barkelie; the King presented him unto the Pope, who accepted the presentation, and consecrated him Bishop of this diocesse, the eight of October, anno 1327. he was borne and descended of the ancient house of the Grandessons, Dukes of Burgundie, his father was named Gilbert, the brother of Otho the great Lord Grandesson, whch Gilbert comming into this land, was well interteined by the king and nobilitie; and had a good liking of the countrie, that by meanes of Henrie Earle of Lancaster, with whom he came into England, he married ladie Sibill, daughter and one of the heires to Iohn Tregos, Lord of the castle of Ewas, neare Hereford east, and by hit had issue five sonnes, and fourre daughters; of whch this Bishop was one, and was borne in the parish of Asheperton, in the diocesse of Hereford. He was from his chyldehood verie well affected to learning, and became a god scholar and a professor of Diuinitie, of whch method he wrote two booke, the one intituled *Pontificales maiores*, & the other *Pontificales minores*. He was also verie graue, wise, and politike, and thereby grewe into such credit with Pope John the xxij. that he was not onelie of his priuie counsell, but also *Nuntius apostolice sedis*. And in all matters of weight, and importance, an embassador for him, to the emperour, to the kings of Hispanie, of France, of England, and all other, the mightiest princes of Christendome, and being on a time sent on in an embassage to K. Edward the third, he did with such wisedome and grauitie behauie himselfe, that the king was ravished in loue with him; and did so tenderlie loue and fauour him, that he never ceased vntill he had procured him from the Pope, and then he gaue him the Archdeaconrie of Notingham, and bestowed great luyngs vpon him. He made him one of his priuie counsell, and in the end

29

# A Catalog of the

preferred him to this Bishoprike. After this, there being some disliking betwene Pope Clement the sixt, and the king, he for his ap-  
proued wisedome was sent in an ambassadge to the Pope, anno,  
1343. for an intreatie of a peace, and an amitie betwene them to  
be had; and with such wisedome he did his message, that he obtained  
his purpose, and made a reconciliation. After his returne home to  
his Bishoprike, he was altogether givien in doing some good things,  
he builded and founded the colledge of S. Marie Otrey, and endo-  
wed the same with great and goodlie livelthoods. He was a li-  
berall benefactor to the Vicars Chozall of his owne church, as also to  
the colledge of Glasney in Perrin; he builded the two last arches in  
the West end of his church, vaulted the rofe of all the church, and ful-  
lie performed and ended the buildings of the same, and then invi-  
ched his said church, with plate, ornaments, and great riches, he also  
builded a verie faire house in his sanctuarie at Bishops Taington,  
which he gave and least full furnished unto his successors, and did im-  
propriate unto the same the personage of Radwaic, to the end as he  
settesth downe in his testament, *Ut haberent locum unde caput suum  
reclinarent, si forte in munus regis eorum temporalia caperentur*: and  
which his halsening in the end came partie to effect. For not onelie  
the most part of the temporalities of this Bishoprike, but this new  
builded house and impropriation are come to be the possessions and  
inheritances of temporall men. This Bishop wared oþ, and felling  
in himselfe a decale of nature, made his last will and testament,  
wherein he made such large and bounteous legacies to the Pope,  
Emperour, King, Queen, Archbishop, Bishops, colledges, churche,  
and to summe persons of high estates and callings, that a man  
would maruell, considering his great and chargeable buildings  
and woþks otherwise, how and by what meanes he could haue attein-  
ed to such a masse of wealth and riches; but his wisedome and poli-  
cie considered, it was easie. For first he sequestreth from himselfe  
and out of his house the trume of manie men and horses, retaining  
and keeping no more than to serue his reasonable estate, his diet  
was frugall, his receipts great, his expences no more than necessa-  
rie. Moreover he had taken and set an order with all the ecclesiasti-  
all persons of his Diocesse, that at the time of their deathys, they  
shuld leane & bequeath all their gods to him or to some other in trust,  
*In pios usus, and towards his chargeable buildings;* & so well he was  
beloved, & his dwyngs liked, that they all accepted this his order: by  
meanes whereof he grew within the course of xl. yeares to infinite  
wealth

mealth and riches. He was in all his life time a plaine man, and bold  
of all vaine glorie and pompe, and preuenting that none should be  
bysed at his buriall, commanded the same to be done plainlie and  
simple. And that none of his executors, Chaplaines, seruants, nor  
none of his house should weare ante morning blacke cloths at the  
same, but onelie their accustomable and common apparrell, which  
then was commonlie graue colored clothes. This Bishop was no  
more graue and wisse, than stout and of courage, if occasion so did re-  
quire. And among other things, this is reported of him: that about  
the yeare of our Lord 1331. Simon Mepham, then Archbishop of  
Canturburie, sent his mandatum unto this Bishop, that he would  
visit his church and diocesse vpon mondale next after Ascension daie  
then following. This Bishop (vpon what occasion it is not written)  
did refuse this mandatum, and appealed from the same, aduertising  
the Archbishop that he should not visit his church nor diocesse. Not-  
withstanding, the Archbishop at the time appointed, came to this citie  
and went to S. Peters church, nothing thinking that ante durst to  
withstand him. But the Bishop knowing of his comming, goeth to  
the church doore and meeteth the Archbishop, and forbiddeth him to  
enter into his church; and the Archbishop pressing forward, as with  
force to enter, the Bishop being then well guarded, denieth and re-  
fuseth him: wherevpon the Archbishop departed, and after at a pro-  
vinciall councell holden at London, the Archbishop complained  
hereof, but by meanes of the like discord betwene him and his su-  
fraganes, he preuailed not. In this Bishops time one William of  
Cresseter, a verie well learned man, was a Canon of this church, and  
he joining himselfe with Nicholas de Cesena, Okeham, Walsing-  
ham, and others, did openlie preach, that Christ and his apostles  
were but poore men, and had no temporall possessions: neither was  
this Emperour or late man subiect to the Pope, but onelie in matters  
of religion. But when he heard that Pope John the xxij. had excom-  
municated, and would condemne them all for heretikes; this Wil-  
liam to save his living, secretlie shronke away from his old compa-  
nions, and changed his copie, and borithe certeine conclusions a-  
gainst them, and his owne preuchings. Also in this Bishops time  
about the yeare of our Lord 1340. one John of Bampton, so named,  
because he was borne at Bampton, in this diocesse, and a monke of  
the order of the Carmelites, was a verie god Scholar, and first did  
openlie reade Aristotle in the universite of Cambridge: where he  
was a scholar, and afterwards he studied diuinitie, and was made

Doctor, he wrote certeine bookes, whiche are not extant. This Bishop after that he had occupied this church, about xij. yeres, he died vpon S. withins daie 1369. and was buried in a chappell, whiche he buil-  
ded in the west wall of his owne church.

30 **T**homas Brentingham, after the death of this John Grandisson, was at one instant chosen Bishop of Excester and Bishop of Hereford, who refusing the one tooke the other, and was consecrated Bishop of Excester, vpon the tenth of March 1370. be-  
ing the feast daie of Nereus and Achilles, William of Worcester then Archbishop of Canturburie. This Thomas, was a man verie well learned, and experted both in ecclesiastical matters, and in politike gouernment, and in both these respects, greatlie reverenced and e-  
stemed; and for that cause, at the parliament holden at Westmin-  
ster, in the tenth yere of K. Richard the second, he was chosen to be  
one of the twelue peers of the realme vnder the King, he was a be-  
nefactor to the Calenderhaie, of the vicars chorall, of his owne church,  
and performed and supplied in buildings; and otherwise what his  
predecessors had left vndone, and having beene Bishop xiiij. yeres,  
he died the third of December, anno 1394. and was buried in the  
North side of the bodie of his owne church.

31 **E**dmond Stafford, vpon the xx. daie of June, anno 1395.  
was consecrated at Lambeth by William Courtwaine, Archbi-  
shop of Canturburie, he was borne and descended of noble paren-  
tage, being brother to Ralph Lord Stafford, created Earle of Stas-  
ford, by K. Edward the third; he was both wise and learned, for his  
wisedome, he grewe into great credit with the king, and was both  
of his priuate counsell, as also Lord Chancellor of England. At the  
parliament holden at Westminister, the xij. yere of K. Richard the se-  
cond, he being then speaker of the higher house, made a verie lear-  
ned and pithie oration, to proouie the absolute authoritie of a King:  
his theme was, *Rex unus erit omnibus*, and having discoursed at  
large of the authoritie of a King, did conclude; *Quod potestas regis es-  
set sibi sola unita annexa & solida*, and whosoever did by anie meanes  
impeach the same, *Pena legis merito esset plectendus*. And for the fur-  
therance of god letters, he did increase two fellowships in the col-  
ledge of Stapledons in Driford, reformed the Statutes of the  
house, and altered the name of it, and called it Excester colledge.  
After that he had continued Bishop in much honour, about xiiij.  
yeres, he died the fourth of September, being the seventh yere of  
King

King Henrie the fift, and lieth buried in his owne church, in a verie  
aire tombe of Alabaster.

James Caryc, Bishop of Chester, being at Florence when  
neswes was brought to Pope Martin the fift, of Bishop Stassordis  
death, was then and there made Bishop of this church, anno 1419.  
and also consecrated, but long he enioied not his office, for there he  
died, and was buried.

32

33

Edmond Lacie, Bishop of Hereford, was translated from  
thence unto this church, in the feast of Easter, and in the eight  
yere of king Henrie the fift, anno 1420. he was a man verie devout,  
and religious, but subiect to flatterers, who carried him to their  
pleasure; he was a liberall benefactor to the vicar of Calenderhale,  
great contentions were betweene him and the citie, for liberties,  
which by arbitrament were compounded, he founded the chapter  
house, in his owne church. He was a professor of divinitie, and very  
well learned; for in the second yere of his Bishoprike being the ix.  
yeare of the kings reigne, there was a parliament holden at West-  
minster, in which great complaints were made against the loose  
and dissolute life of the religious men, and especiall the blacke  
monks. And this matter being brought to the convocation house,  
this Bishop as cheefe prolocutor of that assemblie, did make a verie  
learned and a pitie oration, before the king then of purpose present,  
and the whole cleargie, much lamenting that the religious men  
were so far straited from the rules of their professions, and the hol-  
iness of their predecessors. And when he had at large discoursed the  
same, he deliuered vp certeine articles in writing, praiseng for refor-  
mation: whiche his speeches were so effectuallie uttered, and his arti-  
cles so effectuallie penned, that both the king and the clergie, did not  
onelie with great liking and allowance praise and commend the  
same, but also tooke order that there should be a prouinciall Councell  
called out of hand for a reformation, which was then promised, but  
not performed, by reason of the kings death, which not long after fol-  
lowed: but yet in the swaie of god speed it was then concluded and  
agreed that euerie third benefice, being of the gist of anie of the pre-  
lates, or of anie monasterie, should from thenceforth for seauen yeres  
be ginen to some scholar of Oxforder or Cambrdge. This Bishop  
after he had liued xxxv. yeares in this Bishoprike, died and was bur-  
ied in the North wall of the quier in his owne church. After whose  
death manie miracles were said and devised to be done at his  
g.t. tombe.

A Chapter of the  
tumbe, whereupon great pilgrimages were made by the common  
people to the same.

34 **G**eorge Neuell, succeeded Edmond Lacie, and was conse-  
crated in the feast of S. Katharine, anno. 1455. he was of a noble  
parentage, being the second sonne of Richard Neuell Earle of Sa-  
ristburie, he finished and ended the chapter house which his predecessor  
had begonne. And after that he had beene Bishop about ten  
yeares, he was remoued to Yorke, and made Archbisshop there,  
anno. 1465.

35 **J**ohn Bothe, after the translation of George Neuell to Yorke,  
was consecrated Bishop vnder Thomas Burscher, Archbisshop of  
Canturburie, vpon the xxiij. of Februarie anno. 1466. He was by  
profession a Cniillian, and a Watcheler of the same, he gouerned his  
church verie well, and builded, as some suppose, the Bishops sea in the  
quier, but being wearie of the great troubles which were in this con-  
trie, betwene king Edward the fourth, and the Earle of Warwicke,  
he remoued from hence to his house of Hoxleigh in Hamshire,  
where in the twelwe yeare of his Bishopshipe he died vpon the fift daies  
of Aprill, anno. 1478. and lieth buried at S. Clements in London.

36 **P**eter Cournaie, immediatlie after the death of Bothe,  
was presented to this Bishopricke, and consecrated by Thomas  
Archbisshop of Canturburie, in November anno. 1477. at S. Ste-  
phens in Westminister; he was the sonne of Sir Phillip Cournaie  
of Powderham, his mother was named Elizabeth, daughter to  
Walter Lord Hungerford, he for his wisedome and god behavour  
was in great credit and fauour with king Henrie the seauenth, by  
whose meanes he was translated from this church unto Winchester,  
in the ninth yeare of his being Bishop here, and in the fift yeare  
of his being there, he died vpon the xx. of December, anno. 1491.  
and lieth buried in his owne church. He finished the North tower of  
S. Peters, and gave the clocke bell which is in the same, and which  
boreth the name Peter.

37 **R**ichard FOX, vpon the remouing of Peter Cournaie, was  
consecrated Bishop of this church vnder Thomas Archbisshop  
of Canturburie 1466. he was a verie wise man, and in great credit  
and estimation with king Henrie the seauenth, unto whom he was a  
faithfull counsellour, and of his priuie Councell; with whom he ac-  
quainted himselfe at Paris, when he was there a student. Fox king  
Henrie then Earle of Richemond, being at Venice, and aduertised  
how

## Bishops of Exeter.

how the nobilitie of England was bent to haue him to be their King, came from thence to Paris, and sought unto Charles then King of France for aid and helpe; in which the Earle his suster, this Fox was a speciall traueler and counseller; and in the end, God giuing the successe, the Earle obtained the crowne, and hauing had the triall of the fiftie, wisedome, and truthe of this Bishop, he made him Lord priorie seale, and kept and vised him, and his advise in all his weightie matters, as well at home as abroade. He being Embassador sundrie times, to the R. of France and Scotland, and of a verie herte god will and loue, the King made him godfater to his second sonne R. Henrie the eight. There was a kind of emulation, betwene this Bishop and the Earle of Surreis: both of them being verie wise and of great service to the King and common-wealth. Howbeit, in some diversitie of respects, the one hauing no issue, to care for, did deale without anie priuate affection, or singular gaine; and the other hauing issue, was desirous to advance his house and honor. These affections did breed some dislike betwene them two, yet the king finding a fauor unto himselfe and a commodite to the common-wealth; mislikeit not, if the same exceeded his measure: and they more warme than commendable for their calling & estates. The king then of the councell would deale betwene them for the appeasing and pacifieng of them, and to them he was both friendlie, louing and liberall. The one he deliuered out of the tones, pardoned him of his offenses, restored him to his lands, received him into speciauall fauour, made him of his priorie councell, as also Lord Treasurer of England, and his generall into Scotland, and augmented his luelihoods. The other he first made Bishop to this church, then remoued him unto Bath, and from thence unto Durham, and lastlie unto Winchester. Erasmus in his booke intituled, the Praeacher of Ecclesiastes, declareth holm that the King upon a time, banishing some parte of monie, was to haue the same of the commons, and of the clergie. And for the dealings with the clergie, the matter was by commission committed to this Bishop. 82 CE OP 94   
The whiche when they came before him, vised all the excuses that they could, to vident themselves from lending of anie money: some came verie leuellie and well apparetled, and auained upon hymself men, according to their luelihoods, and these alledged, that they were greately charged in hospitalitie, and house keeping, with other charges incident to the same so that they had no money, and therfore could pate none. Some came poorelie and barelie apparetled, and they alledged that their

## A Catalog of the

liuelihoods were but small, and yet their charges great, and by that means the world was so hard with them, that they had it not to spare. This bishop having heard all these excuses, vised this dilemme: to the ritcher so: t he said, For as much as you are so well and semblie apperelled, and doo keepe so great houses, and haue all shings necessarie about you, it is a manifest argument, that you haue some stoe about you, or els you would not doo as ye doo: and therefore ye must needs lend. To the other's who pretend excuse of their pouertie, he thus replied vnto them; that For as much as they were so bare in their apparel, and so sparing of their expenses. It must needs be that they sauad their pursles and had money, and therefore they must needs pate, and so adiudgeli them to lend vnto the prince. As he rose by learning, so he was a great fauorit and furtherer of learning, and for the good increase of the same, he builded and founded *Corporis christi* colledge in Oxford. In his latter daies he wared and was blind, and dieng in Winchester, he was there buried in his owne church, after that he had beene Bishop of Excester sixe yeares, he was remoued to Bath, anno. 1492.

38

**O**liuer King, immediatlie vpon the transferring of Bishop Fox, was consecrated Bishop of this churche, in Februarie 1492. John Morton, then Archbisshop of Canturbutie. This Oliver was chaplaine to king Henrie the seaueneth, and Deane of Windso: and register of the order of the Garter. In his time were the rebellions of Joseph the Blacke-smith, in Cornwall, and of Perken Warebeke. This Bishop after that he had occupied this see about five yeares, he died, anno. 1497. and as some suppose, he was buried at Windso:.

39

**R**ichard Redman, immediatlie vpon the death of Bishop Oliver King, was translated from his Bishoprike in Wales, vnto this citie; but after five yeares he was remoued vnto the Bishoprike of Eli, and installed there in September, anno. 1501. He was a Gentleman borne, and descended of a verie worshipfull house, which ioined with his boisedome and learning, did much increase his credit and good report.

40

**J**ohn Arundell, next after the translation of Bishop Redman, was remoued from Comentrye and Lichfeld, vnto this citie, and was installed the x: of March 1501. Wherein he sought not the preferment for anie liuelihoods, but rather desirous to be a dineller and resstant in his countreis where he was borne, for he was descended of

the

## Bishops of Excester.

The Arundels of Lanherne in Cornwall, a house of great antiquitie and worship. He long enioied not his new Bishoprike, soz after two yeares after his installing, he had occasion to ride into London, and there died and was buried in Saint Clements church without Templebarre, anno. 1503.

41

**H**Ew Oldham, vpon the death of Arundell, by the preser-  
ment of the Countesse of Richmond and Darbie, unto whom he  
was Chaplaine, was preferred vnto this Bishoprike, and installed  
in the same. He was a man having more zeale than knowledge, and  
more devotion than learning; somewhat roughe in speaches, but  
freendlie in doings. He was carefull in the saving and defending  
of his liberties, soz which, contynall suites was betweene him, and  
the Abbat of Lanestroke, he was liberall to the vicars chorall of his  
church; and reduced them to the keeping of commons, and towards  
the maintenance thereof, he gaue them certeine reneweves, and  
impropriated vnto them the rectorie of Cornwood; he albeit (of him-  
selfe) he were not learned, yet a great fauourer and a furtherer of  
learning, and of learned men. Not withstanding, he was somtyme  
crossed, in his honest attempt therein. He first was minded to haue  
inlarged Excester colledge, in Drford; as well in buildings, as in  
fellowships. But after being a requester to the fellowes for one At-  
kins, to be a fellowe; in whose fauour he had written his letters, and  
was denied, he changed his mind, and his god will was alienated.  
About the same time, Doctor Smith Bishop of Lincolne, was buil-  
ding of the colledge, named Brasen nose, and was verie willing and  
desirous to ioine with him: but being denied to haue the nominati-  
on of a founder, his mind was changed. Not long after being ad-  
vertised, that Bishop Fox of Winchester, was minded to erect and  
found a new colledge, ioined with him, and contributed vnto him  
a great masse of monie, and so a colledge was builded for scholers,  
and great liuelihoods prouided for them: and then the house was na-  
med *Corporis christi* colledge. Whereof the one of them bare the  
name of a founder, and the other of a benefactor. Howbeit some di-  
versitie was betweene these two Bishops, at the first, to what vse  
this colledge should be imployed: soz the founder was of the minde  
that he would haue made it for a house of monks, but the benefactor  
was of the contrarie minde, and would haue it for scholers; alledging  
that monks were but a sort of busling fles, and whose state could not  
long indure; whereas scholers brought vp in learning, would be  
profitable members to the common wealth, and good ornaments to

b.g.

the

## A Catalog of the

the church of God, and continue for ever. The founder being a wise man, and of a verre judgement, when he had well paused and considered hereof, yeldeth hereunto: and so it was concluded betwix them, to make and build a collidge for scholers. And shortly after the god direction, guiding, and government of the said collidge, and scholers; such wise, god, and politike statutes and ordinances were by god advise and counsell devised, established, and ordeined; as therby the said collidge hath bene, and yet continueth one of the best nurseries for training and instruming of god scholers in learning: within that universty. This bishop and the abbat of Lanestoke did still contend and continue in lawe, during their lives: and during which lute, this bishop died, being excommunicated at Rome, and who could not be suffered to be buried, untill an absolution from Rome was procured for him after that he had bene Bishop about xvi. yeres he died the xv. of June, 1519. and was buried in his owne church.

42

**J**ohn Voiseie, otherwise Harman, succeeded Oldham, by the p[re]sentment of K. Henrie the eight, whose chaplaine he then was, and Deane of his chappell, as also of this church, he was Doctor of the lawes, verie well learned and wise, and in great fauour with the king, who sent him sumtyme in embassages to foraine princes, he was Lord president of wales, and had the government of the kings onelie daughter, Ladie Marie princesse of wales. Of all the Bishops in the land, he was accounted the courtly, and the best courtier, and although he were well reported for his learning, yet better liked for his courtly behauiour, which in the end turned not so much to his credit, as to the bitter ruine and spoile of the Church: for of xxi. Lordships and manors, whiche his predecessors had, and left unto him, of a godlie yarelie reueneue, he left but three, and them all leasled out. And where he found vili. houses well furnished, he left onelie one house bare, and without furniture, and yet charged with sumtyme fers and armories; and by these meaneis this Bishop p[ro]fite, which sometimes was counted one of the best, is now become in temporall lands, one of the meanest: and according to the foreprophetyng of Bishop Grandison, a place scarce left for the Bishop to live and rest his hed in, and yet he mercheleth, he was a great fauorier of learned men, and especially of Mathenes, whom he preferred in his church above others. He was verie bountious and liberall unto all men, but especiallie unto courtiers, unto his owne kindred, and conuent: n. Upon manie he bestowed much, unto the confus-  
on

## Bishops of Exeter.

on of some of them; and vpon the other he spent much, by building of a towne, named Sutton Colshull where he was borne, which he procured to be incorporated, & made a market towne: and set vp therein making of kearsies, but all which in the end came to small effect; in his time, after the death of King Henrie the eight, there was an alteration of religion, by King Edward the sixt, whereof ensued rebellion, and a commotion in this diocesse: which in some part was imputed to this Bishop, because he late farre from it, and dwelled in his owne countrie. Whereupon he resigned the Bishoprike, into the kings hands; after that he had been Bishop about xxx. yeres, and lived by the rents of the temporaltie of the Bishoprike, which when he alienated, and discontinued, he did receive vnto him, for fearme of his owne life.

**M**iles Couerdale, after the resignation of Voisie, was by king Edward made Bishop of this citie, and consecrated at Lambeth by Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, anno. 1550. He was borne in the North countrie, and from his childhood giuen to learning, wherein he profited verie much: he was one of the first which professed the Gospell in this land; in the time of king Henrie the eight, he translated the Bible out of the Hebrew into English, and wrote sundrie booke vpon the scriptures, which doctrine being verie new and strange in those daies, and he verie straightlie pursued by the Bishops, made his escape, and passed ouer into lowe Germanie, where he printed the Bibles of his translation, and sent them ouer into England, and therof made his gaine, whereby he liued: but the Bishops, nameleie Doctor Stokesley, Bishop of London, when he heard hereof, and minding to prevent that no such bibles should be dispersed within this realme, made inquiry where they were to be sold, and bought them all vp, supposing that by this means no more Bibles would be had, but contrarie to his expectation, it fell out otherwise; for the same monie whiche the Bishop gaue for these boakes, was sent ouer by the merchant vnto this Couerdale, and by that meanes he was of that wealth and abilitie, that he imprinted as manie more, and sent them ouer into England; but he was then so narrowlie sought for, that he was driven to remoue himselfe out of Flanders into Germanie, and dwelled vnder the Palgrave

43

of Thene, where he found much favour; that he taught yong  
children, and having learned the dutch tong, the prince Pal-  
tine gaue him a benefice, named Burghaber, where he con-  
tinued and lived verie well, partie by that benefice, and partie  
by the liberalitie of the Lord Cromewell, who was his god  
Lord and relished him verie much. At length when the religi-  
on was altered in England, and the Gospell had a free pas-  
sage, he returned and did verie much god in preaching of the  
same. And when the commotion in Devon was for religion,  
he was appoynted to attēnd the Lord Russell, when he came to  
suppreſſe the same, and verie shortly for his learning and god-  
lie life was made Bishop of this sea: who most worthilie did  
performe the office committed unto him, he preached continu-  
allie vpon euerie holie daie, and did read most commonlie  
twise in the weke, in some one church or other within this ci-  
tie. He was after the rate of his livings, a great keeper of hos-  
pitalitie, verie sober in diet, godlie in life, friendlie to the godly,  
liberall to the poore, and courteous to all men; void of pride, full  
of humilitie, abhorring covetousnes, and an enimie to all wic-  
kednesse, and wicked men: whose companies he shunned, and  
and whom he would in no wise shrowd, or hane in his house and  
companie. His wife a most sober, chaste, and godlie matrone;  
his house and howshold, another church, in which was exercised  
all godlinesse and vertue. No one person being in his house,  
which did not from time to time, give an account of his faith  
and religion, and also did like accordinglie: and as he had a  
care for the god successe in religion, so had he also for the directi-  
on of the government in ecclesiastical causes: and because he  
he was not skilfull therin, neither would he hindered from his  
godlie studies, and be incumbered with such worldlie matters,  
which nevertheless he would have be done in all uprightness,  
justice, and equitie, he sent to Drſord for a learned man, to be  
his Chancello, and by the ministerie of the writer hereof, he  
procured and obtained one Maister Robert Weston, Doctor of  
the civil lawe, and afterwards Lord Chancello of Ireland,  
vnto whom he committed his constylie, and the whole charge  
of his ecclesiastical iurisdiction, allowing vnto him, not onelie  
all the fees theronys apperteining, but also lodged and found  
him, his wife, familie, horse, and man, within his owne house,  
and

and gave him a yéerlie pension of xl. pound. And surelie the Bishop was no more godlie and carefull of his part, concerning preaching, but this man also was as diligent and scuere in doing of his office, without reproch of being affectionated or corrupted. And notwithstanding this god man, now a blameless Bishop, and lived most godlie and vertuous, yet the common people, whose old bottels would receive no new wine, could not broke nor digest him, for no other cause, but because he was a preacher of the Gospell, an enimie to papistrie, and a married man. Many denises were accompted against him, for his confusion; sometimes by false suggestions, sometimes by open railings, and false libelles; sometimes by secret backbitings; and in the end practised his death by poisoning, but by the prouidence of God, the snares were broken and he deliuered. After that he had beene Bishop about thre yéeres K. Edward died, and then Quene Marie having the crowne, the religion was altered, and he deprivued. And notwithstanding, the malice of the Prelats and archpapists, was most bitter against him, and who had sworne his death, yet by the godnesse of God, he was most miracoulous preserued, and deliuered from out of their hands, at the lute and by the meanes of the king of Denmarke: who so earnestlie sewed, and so often wrote to the Quene for him, that he was deliuered and sent unto him, with whom after that he had staid a while, he went againe into Germanie unto the Palgrave, who most loninglie received him, placed him againe in his former benefice of Burghaber, where he continued untill the death of Q. Marie. And then the preaching of the Gospell being againe received, and having a free passage, he returned into England, but would never returns to his Bishoprike; notwithstanding it was restured for him: and sundrie times offered him, but lived a private life, continuing in London, preaching and teaching the Gospell, so long as the strength of his bodie would permit; and at length being verie old and striken in yéeres, he died and was honourable buried at S. Magnus church in London.

John Voiseie, after the deprivuation of Miles Coverdale, was restored to this church, and for the better setting of the Romish religion, did here stade for a while: but his mind was adiected to his own countrie, that he returned thither, and made

his onelie abode there, practising there what he could, to hane the making of kerries, to come to some effect; but the same being more chargeable than profitable, came to small effect; this man being verie old died in his owne house, with a pang, and was buried in his parish church there, anno 1555.

45

**J**ames Troblefield, succeeded Bishop Voisie, and was consecrated, anno 1556. he was a gentleman borne, and of a god house, verie gentle and courteous, he professed diuinite, but most zealous in the Romish religion, & yet nothing cruell nor bloodie. And yet that he might not seeme to do nothing, he was contented to prosecute and condemne a gyltles pore saelie woman, named Agnes Pirrest for religion & heresie, & who was burned in Southingham for the same; it was laied to his charge as dooth appere, by an inditement taken at Laurceston, *Die luna in quarta septimana quadragesima anno Philippi & Mariae, secundo & tertio*, before William Stanford, then iustice of the assise, that she should denie the reall presence in the sacrament of the altar: and that the same was but a signe and a figure of Christ's bodie, and that none dooth eate reallie the bodie of Christ but spirituallie. He was verie carefull to recover some part of the lands of his Bishoprike, which his predecessor wasted, and did obteine of M. Marie, to him and to his successors, the see ferme of the manor of Crediton. After that he had beene Bishop about two yeares M. Marie died, and he was deprivued, and lived after a private life.

46

**W**illiam Alleie, in the second yeare of M. Elizabeth, was chosen Bishop, and installed the sixt of August, 1561. In all M. Maries time, which were called the Marian daies, he travellled from place to place, in the North countrie, where he was not knowne; and sometimes by practising of phisick, and sometimes by teaching of scholers, he picked out a pore lusing for himselfe and his wife, and so continued, being not knowne to haue beene a preest, during all M. Maries time: after whose deaſh he went to London, and there did reade diuinite lecture in Pavles verie learnedie, and to his great commendation; and from whence he was taken and made Bishop of this citie. He was verie well learned vniuersallie, but his theſſe studie and profession was in diuinite, and in the tonges.

And

84

shortly after his Bishopps yere hee had part of his former studie,  
but spent his time verie godlie and devoutly. Upon euerie ho-  
ly daie for the most part he preached, and vpon the waie he daies  
he woulde and did reade a lecture of diuinitie; the rest of his  
time, and frē from his necessarie busynesse, he spent in his pri-  
uate studie, and booke sundrie bookes, whereof his predictions  
or lectures whiche he did reade in Paples, and his poore manis li-  
brarie he caused to be imprinted: the like he woulde haue done  
with his Deheue grammar, and other his moeke, if he had li-  
ned. He was well stoked, and his librarie well replenished,  
with all the best sort of writers, whiche most gladlie he woulde im-  
part and make open to euerie godlie scholar and student, in whose  
companie and conuersacion he did most desire and imbrace: he  
seemed to the first appearance, to be a rough and an austere man,  
but in verie truthe, a verie courteous, gentle, and an affable  
man; at his table full of honest speeches, ioined with learning,  
and pleasantnesse, according to the time, place, and companie.  
All his exercisys whiche for the most part was at bowles, verie  
merit and pleasant, void of all sornesse, whiche might abate  
the benefit of recreation, loth to offend, ready to forgive, void of  
malice, full of loue, bountifull in hospitalite, liberall to the poore,  
and a succourer of the miserie, faithfull to his frend, and courte-  
ous to all men; a hater of countnesse, and an enimie to all  
euill and wicked men, and lived an honest, a godlie, and vertu-  
ous life. Finally he was indited with manie notable god gifts  
and vertues, onelie he was somewhat credulous, and of a hasty  
belēefe, and of light credit, whiche he did oftentimes mislike, and  
blame in himselfe; in his latter time, he boared somewhat grosse,  
and his boode full of humors, whiche did abate much of his won-  
ted exercises, and having berele Bishopps about eight yeares he  
died the first of Aprill 1570. and was buried in his owne church.

47

**W**illiam Bradbridge, Deane of Sarisburie, was  
the next Bishop, & consecrated at Lambeth, by Mat-  
thew Parker, Archbishop of Canturburie, the 18. of March 1570.  
he was a professor of diuinitie, but not taken to be so well  
grounded as he persuaded himselfe, he was zealous in religion,  
but not so forwards as he was wished to be, in his latter daies,  
he delighted to dwelle in the contrie, whiche was not so much to  
his liking, as troublesome to his cleargie, & to such as had any  
R. J. sutes

lutes unto him, it was thought he died verier rich, but after his death it proved otherwise, he died suodenlie, no boode lying about him at Pewton ferris, the ninth yeaer of his Bishoprike, vpon the xxiij. of Iulie 1578. and was buried in his owne church.

48

**J**ohn VVolton, now living, next after Bradbridge was called to be Bishop of the see, and consecrated at Lambeth, by Edmond Grendall, Archbisshop of Canturburie, in August 1579. He is a p[ro]fessor of divinitie, and a preacher of the Gospell, and universallie seene in all god letters; great god things are looked and hoped for at his hands, and that he being now made a watchman ouer the house of Israel, and a shepheard vnto the Lords flocke, to be a minister of the Gospell, and a disposer of Gods holie mysteries, will attēnd the same, and per- forme the office of a true Bishop, in preaching in season and out of season, not by constraint or strok, but willingly and gla- tie; not so; filthie lucre, but of a readie mind: by leading an un- reprouēable life, to be example of god works, in all sobrietie, patience, gentenes, and integritie. And that he living thus godlie in this life, may not onlie haue a god report to the posse- tis; but also looke for the blessed hope and aperieng of the glo- rie of God and of our Saviour Jesus Christ, that when he shall present hymselfe and his talent the people of God be- fore the high and cheste Shepheard, they may all enter into the Lords loue, and re- ceive an incorruptible eternall of glorie.

**FINIS.**



